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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Thirty-eighth session
Vienna, 12-23 February 2001

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Chairman.
3. Statement by the Chairman.
4. General exchange of views and introduction to reports submitted on national activities.
5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications following the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment.
7. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
8. Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system.
9. Implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system.
10. Space debris.
11. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries.

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12. Government and private activities to promote education in space science and engineering.

13. Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

14. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Annotations*

2. Election of the Chairman

In paragraph 10 of its resolution 55/122 of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that consensus decisions had been reached on the members of the bureaux of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies for their second terms of office, and agreed that, in accordance with those consensus decisions, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should elect its Chairman at the beginning of its thirty-eighth session. At its forty-third session, in 2000, the Committee agreed that Karl Doetsch (Canada) should be elected Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for a three-year term of office, from 2001 to 2003.[1]

3. Statement by the Chairman

Following the adoption of the agenda and the election of the Chairman by the Subcommittee, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Subcommittee that have taken place since its thirty-seventh session. After the Chairman's statement, the Subcommittee will organize its schedule of work.

4. General exchange of views and introduction to reports submitted on national activities

The annual reports submitted by Member States on their space activities will be made available to the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/752).

5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications following the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

In paragraph 19 of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session should reconvene its Working Group of the Whole and that the Subcommittee should consider, through the Working Group of the Whole, the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

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* The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by Subcommittee.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20), paras. 11 and 12.

Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III

At its forty-third session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space took note of the initiative of the International Astronautical Federation and other initiatives to engage non-governmental entities in the implementation of selected recommendations of UNISPACE III. The Committee agreed that those initiatives should be reviewed by the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session. The Subcommittee should report its findings and views on the modalities for the engagement of non-governmental entities during the forty-fourth session of the Committee.[2]

At its forty-third session, the Committee also took note of the recommendation of the Working Group of the Whole of the Subcommittee that the Youth Advisory Council be invited to make a presentation on its activities at the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 20).

United Nations Programme on Space Applications

The views of the Subcommittee regarding the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, including activities for the period 1999-2001, are set out in the report of its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/736, paras. 34-51). The views of the Committee are set out in the report on its forty-third session.[3] In paragraph 23 of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2001, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications (see A/AC.105/730, sect. II).

The Subcommittee will have before it the report of the Expert covering the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications during 2000 and 2001 (A/AC.105/750).

In its resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite all States to contribute voluntarily to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, and requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to provide the Committee with a report listing those States which had responded to the invitation. That information will also be included in the report of the Expert.

The Subcommittee will also have before it the following reports on training courses, symposia and workshops held in 2000 under the auspices of the Programme:

(a) Report on the Tenth United Nations/Sweden International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, held in Stockholm and Kiruna, Sweden, from 2 May to 9 June 2000 (A/AC.105/741);

(b) Report on the Ninth United Nations/European Space Agency Workshop on Basic Space Science: Satellites and Network of Telescopes—Tools for Global Participation in the Study of the Universe, held in Toulouse, France, from 27 to 30 June 2000 (A/AC.105/742);

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[2] Ibid., para. 77.

[3] Ibid., paras. 32-49.

(c) Report on the United Nations/Austria/European Space Agency Symposium on Enhancing the Participation of Youth in Space Activities, held in Graz, Austria, from 11 to 14 September 2000 (A/AC.105/743);

(d) Report on the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on an Operational Strategy for Sustainable Development using Space, held in São José dos Campos, Brazil, from 28 to 30 September 2000 (A/AC.105/744);

(e) Report on the United Nations/International Academy of Astronautics Workshop on Small Satellites at the Service of Developing Countries: the Latin American Experience, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 5 October 2000 (A/AC.105/745);

(f) Report on the United Nations/European Space Agency/Committee on Space Research Workshop on Satellite Data Reduction and Analysis Techniques, held in Dehra Dun, India, from 27 to 30 November 2000 (A/AC.105/746);

(g) Report on the United Nations/Chile/European Space Agency Workshop on the Use of Space Technology in Disaster Management, held in La Serena, Chile, from 13 to 17 November 2000 (A/AC.105/747);

(h) Report on the United Nations/Malaysia Workshop on Bridging the Digital Divide: Space Technology Solutions, held in Kuala Lumpur from 20 to 24 November 2000 (A/AC.105/748).

In addition, the Subcommittee will have before it a compilation of reports from the regional centres for space science and technology education and the Network of Space Science and Technology Education and Research Institutions of Central Eastern and South-Eastern Europe on their activities (A/AC.105/749). Those reports have been submitted in response to a request by the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 35).

6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment

In paragraph 15 (a) of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Subcommittee consider this item at its thirty-eighth session.

7. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

In paragraph 15 (b) of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-eighth session, consider this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex III, appendix). According to the work plan, the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session should review national and international processes, proposals and standards and national working papers relevant to the launch and peaceful use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

In paragraph 20 of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

At its forty-third session, the Committee took note of the agreement of the Subcommittee's Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space that it would be useful for representatives of launching States to present at the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee a detailed review of the processes carried out to obtain final launch approval in their countries (A/AC.105/736, annex III, para. 10).

The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, convened at the thirty-seventh session of the Subcommittee, welcomed the offer of the International Atomic Energy Agency to conduct a preliminary review of documents relevant to the safety of nuclear power sources in outer space and requested the Agency to report on the matter to the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session. The Subcommittee will have before it a report submitted by the Agency (A/AC.105/754).

8. Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system

In paragraph 15 (b) of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-eighth session, consider this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 40). According to the work plan, the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session should analyse the current levels of usage of space applications and services within the United Nations system. Presentations could be made by appropriate United Nations entities and Member States that undertake cooperative activities with those entities. The Subcommittee should also examine the utility of space applications and services for increasing, with regard to space activities, the effectiveness, efficiency and coordination of the operations of United Nations entities.

At its forty-third session, the Committee approved a list of questions to be circulated to organizations of the United Nations system in connection with the work plan.[4] In paragraph 21 of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly encouraged all the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to provide the Subcommittee with appropriate information in response to the list of questions. Information received from organizations of the United Nations system will be made available to the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/C.1/L.241).

The twenty-first session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities will be held in Vienna from 22 to 24 January 2001. The report of that Meeting (A/AC.105/756), as well as the report of the Secretary-General on coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programme of work for 2001 and 2002 and future years (A/AC.105/757), will be made available to the Subcommittee.

[4] Ibid., para. 113.

9. Implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system

In paragraph 15 (b) of its resolution 55/122, The General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-eighth session, consider this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 41). According to the work plan, the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session should review the types of natural disasters being faced and the extent of the application of space-based services being utilized for their mitigation. Countries may make presentations on the subject.

Following the agreement of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 41), Member States and international organizations were invited to submit information to the Subcommittee on the subject to be discussed at its thirty-eighth session. At its forty-third session, the Committee requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to prepare a comprehensive preparatory document for the work plan.[5] That document, which includes among other things information submitted by Member States and international organizations, will be before the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/753).

At its forty-third session, the Committee agreed that the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites should be invited to make a presentation at the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee in connection with this work plan.[6]

10. Space debris

In paragraph 15 (c) of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session consider this item as a single issue and item for discussion on a priority basis, consistent with paragraph 370 of the report of UNISPACE III,[7] stating that the Committee should give attention to various aspects of space debris.

At its forty-third session, the Committee agreed that the Subcommittee should, in particular, examine the question of the costs and benefits of debris mitigation measures. As part of that examination, Member States could report on:

(a) The costs of various debris mitigation measures;

(b) The consequences, including the economic aspects, of taking no debris mitigation measures;

(c) An analysis of the costs and benefits in various debris mitigation scenarios.

The Committee agreed that, for the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee, in 2001, the passivation and limitation of mission-related space debris for launch

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[5] Ibid., para. 117.

[6] Ibid., para. 116.

[7] *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 19-30 July 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3).

vehicles, including the above-named cost-benefit aspects, would be a suitable subject.[8]

Following the agreement of the Committee,[9] the Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on national research on space debris, safety of space objects with nuclear power sources on board and problems of their collisions with space debris (A/AC.105/751), containing information received by the Secretariat in connection with this item from Member States and international organizations.

At its forty-third session, the Committee agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a sample index to the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space for the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee.[10]

At its forty-third session, the Committee also agreed that the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee should be invited to make a technical presentation on its work on an annual basis.[11]

11. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

In paragraph 15 (c) of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session consider this item as a single issue and item for discussion.

At its forty-third session, the Committee agreed that the International Astronomical Union, the International Telecommunication Union and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development should be invited to present the status of their work on frequency interference with radioastronomy.[12]

12. Government and private activities to promote education in space science and engineering

In paragraph 15 (c) of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session consider this item as a single issue and item for discussion.

Following the agreement of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 16), Member States were invited to report to it on the activities that they had carried out for young people. Information submitted by Member States will be made available to the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/755).

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[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20), para. 119.

[9] Ibid., para. 99.

[10] Ibid., para. 108.

[11] Ibid., para. 106.

[12] Ibid., para. 118.

13. Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

In paragraph 16 of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly noted that the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session would submit its proposal to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for a draft provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, in 2002. In accordance with an agreement reached by the Committee at its forty-second session, discussion under this item should include identification of subjects to be dealt with as single issues and items for discussion or under multi-year work plans, based primarily on the results of UNISPACE III.[13] Pursuant to paragraph 19 of resolution 55/122, this item will be considered by the Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened at the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee.

Symposia to be held during the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee

Pursuant to paragraph 17 of resolution 55/122, a symposium on terrestrial hazards from outer space objects and phenomena will be organized by the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation and held on the afternoons of 12 and 13 February 2001.

Pursuant to paragraph 18 of resolution 55/122, an industry symposium on emerging applications of global navigation satellite systems in improving the productivity of national and regional infrastructure will be held on 19 February 2001.

Other reports

The following reports will also be before the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session:

(a) *Seminars of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications* (ST/SPACE/5), a compilation of selected papers presented during activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in 2000;

(b) *Highlights in Space: Progress in Space Science, Technology and Applications, International Cooperation and Space Law, 2000* (ST/SPACE/6), consisting of reports prepared by the Committee on Space Research, the International Astronautical Federation and the International Institute of Space Law.

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[13] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), annex I, sect. A.

Annex

Indicative schedule of work[a]

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Week of 12-16 February 2001		
Monday, 12 February	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Election of the Chairman Item 3. Statement by the Chairman Item 4. General exchange of views	Item 4. General exchange of views Symposium on terrestrial hazards from outer space objects and phenomena
Tuesday, 13 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications[b] Item 6. Remote sensing	Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications[b] Item 6. Remote sensing Symposium on terrestrial hazards from outer space objects and phenomena
Wednesday, 14 February	Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 6. Remote sensing Item 9. Natural disaster management system	Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 8. Inter-agency cooperation Item 9. Natural disaster management system
Thursday, 15 February	Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications[b] Item 8. Inter-agency cooperation Item 9. Natural disaster management system	Item 8. Inter-agency cooperation Item 9. Natural disaster management system Item 11. Geostationary orbit
Friday, 16 February	Item 8. Inter-agency cooperation Item 9. Natural disaster management system Item 11. Geostationary orbit	Informal consultations on the enlargement of the membership of the Committee[c]
Week of 19-23 February 2001		
Monday, 19 February	Item 10. Space debris Symposium on emerging applications of global navigation satellite systems	Item 10. Space debris Item 7. Nuclear power sources[d] Symposium on emerging applications of global navigation satellite systems

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Tuesday, 20 February	Item 10. Space debris Item 7. Nuclear power sources[d] Item 12. Education	Item 10. Space debris Item 7. Nuclear power sources[d] Item 12. Education
Wednesday, 21 February	Item 7. Nuclear power sources[d] Item 12. Education	Item 12. Education Item 13. Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee[b]
Thursday, 22 February	Item 7. Nuclear power sources[d] Item 13. Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee[b]	Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications[b] Item 13. Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee[b] Item 14. Report to the Committee
Friday, 23 February	Item 14. Report to the Committee	Item 14. Report to the Committee

[a] At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that Member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/50/20), paras. 168 and 169 (b)).

[b] The Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 55/122 of 8 December 2000, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of items 5 and 13. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of items 5 and 13 on Thursday, 22 February, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.

[c] The Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will hold informal consultations among the members of the Committee, pursuant to paragraph 40 of General Assembly resolution 55/122, with the aim of making further progress on reaching a consensus decision on the enlargement of the membership of the Committee.

[d] The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 55/122, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 7. At the final meeting at which this item is discussed, the Subcommittee will adopt the report of the Working Group.